

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An optical component, comprising a substrate, an optical material layer which is formed on this substrate, an organosilicon resin layer which covers this optical material layer, and a solid component which is stacked on this organosilicon resin layer, wherein the optical material layer is prepared by drying a material containing any of a hydrolyzed solution of metal alkoxide, a solution of a polymer and a polymerizable monomer dissolved in an organic solvent, and a solution of an ionic bond crystal material dissolved in a solvent.

2. (Original) The optical component according to claim 1, wherein a spacer which surrounds an outer periphery of the optical material layer is provided between the substrate and the solid component, the spacer being formed to have a thickness larger than that of the optical material layer.

3. (Original) The optical component according to claim 1, wherein a spacer is formed between the substrate and the solid component by curing an outer periphery of the optical material layer, the spacer being formed to have a thickness larger than that of an inner portion of the outer periphery of the optical material layer.

4. (Original) An optical component, comprising a substrate, an optical material layer which is formed on this substrate, an organosilicon resin layer which covers this optical material layer, and a spacer which surrounds an outer periphery of the optical material layer, wherein: the optical material layer is prepared by drying a material containing any of a

hydrolyzed solution of metal alkoxide, a solution of a polymer and a polymerizable monomer dissolved in an organic solvent, and a solution of an ionic bond crystal material dissolved in a solvent; and the spacer is formed to have a thickness larger than that of the optical material layer.

5. (Original) An optical component, comprising a substrate, an optical material layer which is formed on this substrate, an organosilicon resin layer which covers this optical material layer, and a spacer which is formed by curing an outer periphery of the optical material layer, wherein: the optical material layer is prepared by drying a material containing any of a hydrolyzed solution of metal alkoxide, a solution of a polymer and a polymerizable monomer dissolved in an organic solvent, and a solution of an ionic bond crystal material dissolved in a solvent; and the spacer is formed to have a thickness larger than that of an inner portion of the outer periphery of the optical material layer.

6. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a refractive index of the optical material layer is approximately the same as a refractive index of the organosilicon resin.

7. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the optical material layer is formed of the metal alkoxide, and the metal alkoxide contains Si alkoxide as a main ingredient.

8. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein; the optical material layer is formed of a single material having a refractive

index of  $n$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n - 0.05 < n_0 < n + 0.05$ .

9. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to claim 64, wherein; the optical material layer is formed of a single material having a refractive index of  $n$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n - 0.05 < n_0 < n + 0.05$ .

10. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to claim 75, wherein; the optical material layer is formed of a single material having a refractive index of  $n$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n - 0.05 < n_0 < n + 0.05$ .

11. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein: the optical material layer comprises a material having a refractive index of  $n_1$  and a material having a refractive index of  $n_2$ ,  $n_1$  being smaller than  $n_2$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_1 < n_0 < n_2$ .

12. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to claim 64, wherein: the optical material layer comprises a material having a refractive index of  $n_1$  and a material having a refractive index of  $n_2$ ,  $n_1$  being smaller than  $n_2$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_1 < n_0 < n_2$ .

13. (Currently Amended) The optical component according to claim 75, wherein: the optical material layer comprises a material having a refractive index of  $n_1$  and a material having a refractive index of  $n_2$ ,  $n_1$  being smaller than  $n_2$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_1 < n_0 < n_2$ .

14. (Original) The optical component according to claim 8, wherein: the optical material layer comprises a material having a refractive index of  $n_1$  and a material having a refractive index of  $n_2$ ,  $n_1$  being smaller than  $n_2$ ; and a refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_1 < n_0 < n_2$ .

15. (Original) The optical component according to claim 11, wherein: the optical material layer is formed of three or more types of materials including a material having a maximum refractive index  $n_{\max}$  and a material having a minimum refractive index  $n_{\min}$ ; and the refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_{\min} < n_0 < n_{\max}$ .

16. (Original) The optical component according to claim 12, wherein: the optical material layer is formed of three or more types of materials including a material having a maximum refractive index  $n_{\max}$  and a material having a minimum refractive index  $n_{\min}$ ; and the refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_{\min} < n_0 < n_{\max}$ .

17. (Original) The optical component according to claim 13, wherein: the optical material layer is formed of three or more types of materials including a material having a maximum refractive index  $n_{\max}$  and a material having a minimum refractive index  $n_{\min}$ ; and the refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_{\min} < n_0 < n_{\max}$ .

18. (Original) The optical component according to claim 14, wherein: the optical material layer is formed of three or more types of materials including a material having a maximum refractive index  $n_{\max}$  and a material having a minimum refractive index  $n_{\min}$ ; and the refractive index  $n_0$  of the organosilicon resin layer satisfies  $n_{\min} < n_0 < n_{\max}$ .

19. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium, wherein the solid component in the optical component according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~claim 1 is configured to serve as a translucent substrate provided parallel to the substrate.

20. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method for an optical component, comprising the steps of:

applying a material among materials containing any of a hydrolyzed solution of metal alkoxide, a solution of a polymer and a polymerizable monomer dissolved in an organic solvent, and a solution of an ionic bond crystal material dissolved in a solvent;

forming a gel-like or solid-like optical material layer by removing a solvent from the applied material through drying;

coating this gel-like or solid-like optical material layer with an organosilicon resin layer; and

stacking the solid component with ~~the~~an optical material layer and the organosilicon resin layer sandwiched between the substrate and the solid component.

21. (Original) The manufacturing method for an optical component according to claim 20, comprising the step of surrounding an outer periphery of the optical material layer with a spacer having a thickness larger than a maximum thickness of the outer periphery, and wherein: a solution material containing the optical material is injected inside a portion surrounded by the spacer; and

the solid component is abutted onto the spacer to position the solid component with respect to the substrate.

22. (Original) The manufacturing method for an optical component according to claim 20, comprising the step of curing an outer periphery of the optical material layer such that a height thereof is larger than a thickness of an inner portion thereof, and wherein the solid component is stacked so as to abut onto the cured outer periphery.

23. (Original) The manufacturing method for an optical component according to claim 22, wherein, after the outer periphery of the optical material layer is pressed to make the height uniform, the outer periphery is irradiated with a ray for curing.

24. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method for an optical recording medium, wherein the solid component in the step of stacking the solid component according to ~~any one of claims 20 to 23~~ claim 20 is a translucent substrate.

25. (New) The optical component according to claim 4, wherein a refractive index of the optical material layer is approximately the same as a refractive index of the organosilicon resin.

26. (New) The optical component according to claim 5, wherein a refractive index of the optical material layer is approximately the same as a refractive index of the organosilicon resin.

27. (New) The optical component according to claim 4, wherein the optical material layer is formed of the metal alkoxide, and the metal alkoxide contains Si alkoxide as a main ingredient.

28. (New) The optical component according to claim 5, wherein the optical material layer is formed of the metal alkoxide, and the metal alkoxide contains Si alkoxide as a main ingredient.